

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 17 are pending.

Claims 1 – 17 stand rejected.

Claim 1 has been amended, without prejudice, to clarify that the actuator is capable, in response to actuation in a first mode, of providing an audible output indicative of a pressure value stored in the memory prior to actuation.

REMARKS

Rejection of Claims 1 – 3, 6 – 10, 13, 14 & 17

Claims 1 – 3, 6 – 10, 13, 14 & 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,748,845 (Rocco, et al.).

As to claim 1 as amended, a pressure gauge is recited having a memory and an actuator capable in response to actuation in a first mode for providing an audible output indicative of a pressure value stored in said memory prior to said actuation. In accordance with claim 1, the actuator may repeatedly provide an audible output indicative of a pressure value.

Rocco neither teaches nor suggests a pressure gauge which can be actuated to provide an audible output indicative of a pressure value obtained prior to actuation. The manual switch 13 in Rocco merely causes the power control circuit to change from its disabled state, when no power is supplied from battery 25 to any of the electronic components, to an active state (col. 4, lines 3 – 12).

In Rocco, audible signal device 28 announces the detection of a maximum air pressure reading (col. 3, lines 66 – 68). This information is obtained after

actuation of the manual switch. Rocco does not teach or suggest the announcement of a stored air pressure value obtained prior to actuation.

In accordance with the pressure gauge of claim 1, a user can be repeatedly informed of the last value measured, as stated in the specification, at Paragraph [0022]. In contrast, in Rocco, if the user is unable to see the display, the user cannot determine the pressure.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 as amended is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 2 – 3 and 6 - 7 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

With respect to claim 8, the Examiner states that Rocco teaches, at col. 3, lines 39 – 48, a memory capable of storing multiple pressure values indicative of multiple pressure measurements, and wherein the actuator includes means for selectively accessing corresponding ones of the stored measurements, and wherein the means for selectively accessing comprises an input panel on the housing for enabling user input selection. In fact, Rocco does not teach a memory capable of storing multiple pressure values indicative of multiple pressure measurements that can be selectively accessed. In contrast, Rocco merely teaches a display that presents an ascending sequence of numerical values corresponding to air pressure within an enclosure. That ascending sequence is presented to the user, and Rocco does not provide any means for selectively accessing ones of multiple stored values as recited in present claim 8. The user of the device of Rocco is not able to selectively access one of multiple stored values.

For at least these reasons, as well as the reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1, claim 8 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 9 depends from claim 8, and is allowable for the reasons that claims 1 and 8 are allowable.

Claim 10 is allowable over the prior art of record in that Rocco does not teach or suggest at least the following limitation: “a user activatable area on said housing for generating a signal to a processor to retrieve said stored value from memory, said processor operable for providing an audible output indicative of said retrieved value.” The switch of Rocco causes the power control circuit to be shifted from a disabled state to an active state. No signal is generated to the processor to retrieve a stored pressure value from memory in response to the user pressing the switch. In fact, until the switch of Rocco is pressed, the electronic components are totally inoperative, so that there is no stored value to retrieve from memory. In Rocco, only taking a measurement causes a pressure value to be output. Moreover, in the gauge of Rocco, if the user cannot see the display, the pressure cannot be determined.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 10 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 13, which depends from claim 10, is allowable at least for the reasons that claim 10 is allowable.

Claim 14 contains limitations similar to those of claim 8, and is allowable both for the reasons that claim 10 is allowable, and for the reasons that claim 8 is allowable.

Claim 17 is allowable at least for the reason that Rocco does not teach or suggest the following limitations: "means formed on said housing and responsive to subsequent user activation for recalling from said memory said last stored value and for outputting said audible utterance of said measured value." As explained above, the switch of Rocco causes a power control circuit to shift from a disabled state to an active state so that, subsequent to user activation of the switch, a pressure reading can be taken. In Rocco, the user activation is not subsequent to determining the air pressure value and storing a parameter indicative of the measured value. Thus, in Rocco, unlike the invention as recited in claim 17, a user cannot press a switch to hear the air pressure.

For at least these reasons, claim 17 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Rejection of Claims 4, 11, 12 and 16

Claims 4, 11, 12, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rocco, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,385,554 (Wu).

Claim 4 depends from claim 1, and is allowable at least on the grounds that neither Rocco nor Wu teaches "an actuator capable in response to actuation in a first mode for providing an audible output indicative of a pressure value stored in said memory prior to said actuation."

Claim 11 depends from claim 10, and is allowable at least for the reasons that claim 10 is allowable.

Claim 12 depends from claim 11, and is allowable at least for the reasons that claim 11 is allowable.

Claim 16 recites “a voice activatable sensor for causing said processor to retrieve said stored value from memory.” Neither Rocco nor Wu teaches a voice activatable sensor. For at least this reason, in addition to the reasons set forth above in connection with claim 10, claim 16 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Rejection of Claims 5 and 15

Claims 5 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rocco in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,394,343 (Tsao).

Claim 5 recites “a look up table containing a mapping of pressure values to parameters indicative of audible utterances corresponding to said pressure values.” The Examiner states that Tsao teaches a pressure gauge having a processor 32 having a look up table containing a mapping of pressure values to parameters indicative of audible utterances (142, being read as a buzzer) corresponding to the pressure values (col. 7, lines 29 – 59 and Table 1). This is not correct. There is no table disclosed in Tsao that maps pressure values to parameters indicative of audible utterances. Buzzer 142 does not appear to be capable of more than one sound, so that there can be no “parameters indicative of audible utterances.” Moreover, Table 1 maps the setting of switches to modes of operation, units of measure and full scale ranges (col. 7, lines 56 – 59). Thus, Table 1 neither maps pressure values to anything, nor maps anything to parameters indicative of audible utterances.

For at least these reasons, as well as the reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1, claim 5 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 15 contains limitations similar to those of claim 5, and is allowable for the same reasons, as well as the reasons that claim 10 is allowable.

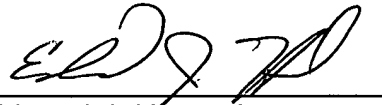
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and removal of these rejections.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, Applicant believes he has addressed all outstanding grounds raised by the Examiner and respectfully submits the present case is in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any questions or outstanding matters, the Examiner is cordially invited and requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward J. Howard
Reg. No. 42,670
Plevy & Howard, P.C.
P.O. Box 226
Fort Washington, PA 19034
(215) 542-5824
(215) 542-5825 (fax)

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